

REMARKS

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following inventions pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §121:

- I. Claims 1-9, drawn to methods for stimulating tear secretion and mucin production in eyes using a mononucleotide compound of Formula I (UTP), III (ATP) or IV (CTP).
- II. Claims 1-11, drawn to methods for stimulating tear secretion and mucin production in eyes using a dinucleotide compound of Formula II, including P^1 , P^4 -di(uridine-5')-tetrphosphate.
- III. Claim 12, drawn to methods of treating corneal injury using the dinucleotide compound P^1 , P^4 -di(uridine-5')-tetrphosphate.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group II, Claims 1-11, drawn to methods for stimulating tear secretion and mucin production in eyes using a dinucleotide compound of Formula II. Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute claims directed to the remaining allegedly distinct groups in one or more continuing or divisional applications.

Species Election

Applicants are required under 35 USC §121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR §1.141.

In Response to the species election requirement, Applicants are making the following election:

X = oxygen

$m+n=2$; and

B and B' are each independently a pyrimidine of general Formula IIb.

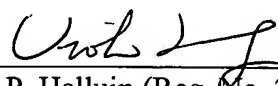
Claims 1-11 are readable upon the elected species.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the application is in good and proper condition for allowance. Early notification of allowance is earnestly solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (650) 463-8109.

Respectfully submitted,

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